

The Daily Courant.

Wednesday, April 17. 1706.

London, April 17.

In Yesterday's Courant we gave Part of an Extract of a Pastoral Letter address'd by the Bishop of Murcia to the Inhabitants of his Diocess. The rest of that Extract follows.

TO all these Motives to Fidelity, I must add the personal Merit of Philip V. He is a King given us by God, who inspir'd us with a Veneration for him when he gave him to us, and for whom our Hearts were fill'd with Love as soon as we came to know him. A King who is no Stranger to us, but Grandson of our Philip IV. A King amiable, merciful, just, and tender of all his Subjects; a King that has given us the strongest Proofs of the truest Love for us, by despising his own Ease for our Tranquility, abandoning the Pleasures of his Court to run to our Defence; who when he is to act for us, has no regard either to the Inclemencies of the Weather, the Fatigues of Campaigns, or the Dangers of War; who is ever at the Head of his Troops for our Preservation, and is now going to fight to make us happy. A King that is visibly protected by the Hand of God, who has declar'd him to be his chosen Vessel by the Hazards and Treasons from which he has deliver'd him. A Catholick King, a King who by his Conduct has given us well grounded Hopes to see in his Life and Actions a true and lively Picture of St. Ferdinand and of St. Lewis, whom he counts among his glorious Ancestors. A King in whom no Vice or Fault is found, even in the first Years of an absolute Power and of a vigorous Youth; a King that frequents the Sacraments, as we all know, twice or thrice a Week; a King that rarely sleeps before he has confess'd himself and receiv'd Absolution; a King, to conclude, who in the Flower of his Age bears with so great Fortitude and Resignation the severest Strokes with which the Almighty exercises his elect. If at 22 Years a King shews us so many Virtues and distinguishing Qualities, what can ye invent against him ye perfidious, ye ungrateful, ye spreaders of false and pernicious Principles? My beloved, look not upon those unnatural Wretches, with Pity, but with Indignation. We are not worthy of the King that God has given us, nor does he deserve our Disloyalty and our Indifference. He considers us as his Children, and loves us as such. He Pardons graciously the Wrongs and Insults that have been and still are continued to be done against him; when Information is given him of them, he only lifts up his Hands and Eyes to Heaven, and says, Lord! thou art the King of Kings, the Kingdom is thine, thine is the Crown, thou broughtst me hither, and if it be thy Will I should reign with thou over me and my Subjects.

Know ye not, my beloved, that 'tis Infidelity and Heresy that makes War upon us? Is it the Empire, think ye, that maintains those great and nu-

merous Fleets in our Seas? Are they Imperialists that insult us on our Coasts? We see they are not: They are the English, and what is their Design? Is it to succour the Archduke Charles? That is what they tell him indeed, but it does not appear so by the War they make upon us at an immense Charge. We have been in Alliance at other Times with the English, what did they then do for us? Did they then put themselves to such Expence? 'Tis therefore their own private Interest that puts them upon this cruel War against us. Shall I tell you the real Motive? 'Tis Heresy: 'Tis none other. They would maintain it and spread it, they will not return to the Bosom of the Church, from which they withdrew themselves. They fear, and see, that if once Philip V be settled quietly on his Throne, Spain united with France will force them to restore their Crown to King James, whose Father they disloyally dethron'd for no other Reason than because he was a Catholick. In this War, the Interests of our Crown are less concern'd than those of our Religion: And therefore to declare for the Hereticks and favour them, is to incur the Excommunication denounc'd by the Bull in *Causa Domini*.

Consider, if you revolt, what Evils, Shame, and Sorrow will attend you. Philip V. will reign, and you will find your selves cheated, ruin'd, and dishonour'd: God gave him to us, and 'tis his Interest to maintain him, and destroy those that oppose him. What tho' the Archduke be Master of Gibraltar and Barcelona, does that make him Master of all Spain? Such a Kingdom is not so easily a Conquest. Should England even dispeople itself to invade these Countries, it would not furnish Troops enow to gain them nor to defend them; nor could Enemies of our Religion maintain themselves long in so Catholick a Kingdom. They would make you believe the Archduke shall reign, and that he will give you all you can desire. Depend upon it he will give you nothing. Those that love the Treason, hate the Traitors; and if he gets into the Throne, the very Men whom he will trust least, are those that help'd him to dethrone Philip V.

Consider again, the immense Engagements the Archduke is under to his Allies, for the prodigious Sums they advance to him, and for which they expect to be recompenc'd if he gain the Crown. All you will then get by the Archduke, will be an inevitable Necessity to maintain a longer and more terrible War than this. France will not abandon Philip V, and considering the Forces they have and their Neighbourhood to us, our Calamities and Losses will be infallible.

Deal, April 15. There are in the Downes Her Majesty's Ships the Jersey, Dunkirk, Auguste, Crown, Assistance, Speedwel, and Swan; with several outward bound Merchant Ships.

At

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